

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to insert a statement that the present application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP2003/001759, filed February 20, 2003.

The specification has further been amended to insert section headings.

Claims 17-21 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims 3-11, 14, 15, 22, 23 and 25-27 have been amended as set forth above to eliminate multiple dependencies. Support for this amendment is found in original claims 3-11, 14, 15, 22, 23 and 25-27. *See, In re Gardner*, 177 USPQ 396, 397 (CCPA 1973) and MPEP §§ 608.01(o) and (l).

The claims have also been amended for clarity. In particular, the following amendments have been made:

claim 3 has been amended to remove the term "or" after the term "VFFAED," to remove the comma after the term "VFFA," to insert a comma after the term "VFFAED" and to insert the term "or" after the term "VFFA;"

claim 4 has been amended to replace the term "SEQ ID NO:" with "SEQ ID NOs;" to replace the term "or" with "and," and to insert a comma after the number "7;"

claim 5 has been amended to replace the term "SEQ ID NO:" with "SEQ ID NOs;" and to insert a comma after the number "13;"

claim 6 has been amended to insert a comma after the number "19" and the number "25," and to insert a semicolon after the number "20;"

claim 7 has been amended to replace both occurrences of the term "or" with the term "and" and to insert a comma after the term "-8;"

claim 10 has been amended to insert a semicolon after the term “MS-R 7.11H2 x 7.12L1” and to replace the term “or” in front of the term “MS-R 7.11H2 x 7.12L1” with the term “and;”

claim 22 has been amended to replace the term “Kit” with “A kit” and to replace three occurrences of the term “of” with the phrase “according to;”

claim 23 has been amended to insert a colon after the phrase “steps of” and to insert a comma after the number “25;”

claim 24 has been amended to insert a period at the end of the claim; and

claim 27 has been amended to insert a colon after the phrase “steps of,” and to replace the phrase “optimization of” with the term “optimizing.”

It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are formal in nature and do not change the scope of the claims in any manner.

Claim 9 has been amended, for clarity, to remove the recitation of “at least two.” Support for this amendment is found in original claims 1 and 9. *Id.*

Claim 15 has further been amended to recite that the composition is a “pharmaceutical or diagnostic” composition and to recite “a carrier or diluent.” Support for this amendment is found in the specification at, for example, pg. 28, second full paragraph.

Claim 22 has further been amended to recite that “the antibody, nucleic acid, vector or host cell is contained in at least one vial, bottle, container or multicontainer unit.” Support for this amendment is found in the specification at, for example, pg. 34, second full paragraph.

Claim 23 has been rewritten as an independent claim. Support for this amendment is found in original claim 23 and in the specification at, for example, the last partial paragraph on page 34 to the second full paragraph on page 37. *Id.*

Claim 23 has further been amended, for clarity, to replace the phrase “of selected” with “the identified” (clones). Support for this amendment is found in original claim 23 and in the specification at, for example, pg. 36, second full paragraph. *Id.*

Claim 24 has further been amended, for clarity, to recite that the cassette mutagenesis is carried out “prior to expressing the identified, optimized clones” and to add the term “identified.” Support for this amendment is found in original claims 23 and 24. *Id.*

Claim 29 has been added. Support for this claim is found in original claim 15. *Id.*

Claim 30 has been added. Support for this claim is found in the specification at, for example, pg. 28, second full paragraph.

Claims 31-33 have been added. Support for these claims is found in original claim 17 and in the specification at, for example, pg. 28, second full paragraph to pg. 30, first full paragraph, and pg. 32, last full paragraph to pg. 34, first full paragraph. *Id.*

Claims 34 and 35 have been added. Support for these claims is found in original claim 17 and in the specification at, for example, pg. 32, last full paragraph to pg. 34, first full paragraph. *Id.*

Claims 36 and 37 have been added. Support for these claims is found in original claim 18 and in the specification at, for example, pg. 21, second full paragraph,

pg. 30, second full paragraph to pg. 32, last full paragraph, the paragraph that spans pp. 33-34, Example 9 and Figures 5-7. *Id.*

Claims 38 and 39 have been added. Support for these claims is found in original claim 19 and in the specification at, for example, pg. 21, second full paragraph, pg. 28, second full paragraph, pg. 33, first full paragraph to pg. 34, first full paragraph, Examples 10 and 11, and Figures 8 and 9. *Id.*

Claim 40 has been added. Support for this claim is found in original claim 20 and in the specification at, for example, pg. 28, second full paragraph to pg. 30, first full paragraph, and pg. 32, last full paragraph to pg. 34, first full paragraph. *Id.*

It is submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the foregoing amendments and claims. Approval and entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to examination on the merits, and allowance of all the claims, respectfully, are requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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